

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W
----- 029327

R 091000Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7685

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3803

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN GENERAL ELECTIONS: NOMINATION DAY

REF: A. K.L. 3656

B. K.L. 3748

1. SUMMARY: NOMINATION DAY, AUGUST 8, SAW 90 NATIONAL FRONT (NF) CANDIDATES RETURNED UNOPPOSED INCLUDING 15 OF 16 NF PARLIAMENT CANDIDATES IN SABAH. AMONG THOSE UNOPPOSED WERE PM RAZAK AND SEVERAL OTHER UMNO MINISTERS. NF WILL FACE STIFF OPPOSITION FROM DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (DAP) AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY (PEKEMAS) IN PENANG AND PERAK AND FROM THE MARXIST PARTAI SOSIALIS RAKYAT MALAYA (PSRM) IN TRENGGANU. HOWEVER, NF IS IN STRONG POSITION IN MOST AREAS AND MAJOR UPSETS ARE NOT FORECAST. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS DIVISION OF STATE AND FEDERAL SEATS FOR NATIONAL FRONT: UMNO - 61 FEDERAL - 168 STATE: MCA - 24/58;
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PMIP - 14/51; GERAKAN 7/19; PPP - 4/9; MIC 4/7.

OPPOSITION DAP IS FIELDING 46 CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL SEATS AND 120 FOR STATE SEATS IN ALL AREAS EXCEPT PERLIS, KELANTAN AND TRENGGANU. PEKEMAS IS FIELDING 36 PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES AND 91 FOR STATE CONTESTS CONCENTRATING ON PENANG AND SELANGOR. PSRM IS MAKING MAJOR EFFORT IN TRENGGANU, CONTESTING ALL BUT TWO PARLIAMENT AND STATE SEATS; PSRM ALSO IS FIELDING CANDIDATES IN MAJORITY OF CONSTITUENCIES IN KELANTAN, PAHANG AND PERLIS. EXCEPT FOR KELANTAN, THERE NO MAJOR CONTESTS BY INDEPENDENTS.

3. CANDIDATES RETURNED UNOPPOSED INCLUDE PM RAZAK (PAHANG); DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN (JOHORE); DEP TRADE AND INDUSTRY MIN MUSA HITAM (JOHORE); HOME AFFAIRS MIN GHAZALI SHAFIE (PAHANG); EDUCATION MIN MOHAMED YAACOB (KELANTAN); INFORMATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS MIN TUNKU RITHAUDDEEN (KELANTAN); AND AMBASSADOR TO U.S. KHIR JOHARI (KEDAH), SIGNIFYING CONSIDERABLE UMNO STRENGTH IN THOSE AREAS. IN ADDITION, ALL BUT ONE NF CANDIDATE WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED IN SABAH, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA AND PETER LO OF SABAH CHINESE ASSOCIATION. WORD OF DETENTION OF POTENTIAL OPPOSITION CANDIDATES (REF B) HAS NOT YET LEAKED INTO PRESS HERE.

4. CRITICAL AREAS FOR NON-MALAY PARTIES IN NATIONAL FRONT ARE PENANG AND PERAK WHERE THREE TO FIVE CANDIDATES ARE CONTESTING EACH SEAT. CONSPICUOUS FOR HIS ABSENCE FROM NF LINEUP IN PERAK IS DR. LIM KENG YAIK OF GERAKAN WHO LED MCA REFORM MOVEMENT UNTIL MID-1973. LIM, HOWEVER, IS STILL MEMBER OF SENATE AND REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN PROMISED MINISTERSHIP IF GERAKAN POLLS WELL IN ELECTIONS. ALSO IN PERAK, AGRICULTURE MIN TAN SRI GHAZALI JAWI IS STANDING FOR STATE SEAT ONLY AND REPORTEDLY WILL BECOME NEXT CHIEF MINISTER THERE. IN SELANGOR, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARUN BIN IDRIS IS STANDING FOR STATE SEAT ONLY AND RESOLUTION OF CORRUPTION CHARGES HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS (K.L. 3533). KUALA LUMPUR ELECTIONS PROMISE TO BE SPIRITED WITH GERAKAN (AND EX-MCA) LEADERS ALEX LEE AND DR. TAN TIONG HONG OPPOSING PEKEMAS CANDIDATES YEOH TECK CHYE (PRESIDENT OF MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS) AND DR. TAN CHEE KHOON RESPECTIVELY. DAP ALSO PROMISES TO PUT UP GOOD FIGHT FOR THESE SEATS.

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5. IN HEAVILY MALAY AREAS, PSRM CANDIDATES AND A FEW INDEPENDENTS WILL GIVE UMNO AND PMIP TROUBLE IN KELANTAN, PERLIS AND PAHANG, PARTICULARLY IN STATE CONSTITUENCIES. PSRM, HOWEVER, HAS CONCENTRATED ITS MAIN STRENGTH IN TRENGGANU WHERE IT EXPECTS TO CAPITALIZE ON TRADITIONAL UMNO-PMIP RIVALRIES AND DISSATISFACTION OVER PMIP INCLUSION IN NATIONAL FRONT. IN THIS SITUATION, PSRM MAY WIN FROM TWO TO FOUR FEDERAL CONTESTS, GIVING IT FIRST REPRESENTATION IN

LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

6. IN SARAWAK, BOTH COALITION GOVT (PESAKA-BUMIPUTRA AND SUPP) AND OPPOSITION SNAP ARE CONTESTING IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES. IT APPEARS THAT CHIEF MINISTER DATUK RAHMAN YA'KUB AND DEPUTY CHIEF MIN STEPHEN YONG WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS BUT MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURES JAMES WONG AND STEPHEN NINGKAN SEEM ASSURED OF VICTORY AS WELL. FEDERAL MIN FOR SARAWAK AFFAIRS, TAN SRI TEMENGGONG JUGAH, HAS RETIRED FROM ELECTIVE POLITICS AND WILL BE REPLACED BY HIS SON, LEONARD LINGGI JUGAH, STATE MIN FOR LOCAL GOVT AND EDUCATION. OVERALL, SNAP SEEMS LIKELY TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION SLIGHTLY BUT WILL NOT CAPTURE STATE GOVT.

7. ON WHOLE (EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR TRENGGANU), NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATES SEEM TO BE IN STRONG POSITIONS AND MAJOR CHANGES IN GOVT LINEUP IN TERMS OF PARTY STRENGTHS AND PERSONALITIES SEEM UNLIKELY AT THIS POINT IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

8. FULL ELECTORAL ROSTER POUCHED EA/IMS.
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